This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously presented) A computer system for integrating a tool into a design environment comprising:

a processor and a memory;

a tool file stored in the memory, the tool file representing the tool to be integrated into the design environment and comprising a custom build rule for the tool that includes a generalized description of the syntax of a command line that is run when the tool is executed, the generalized description of the syntax of the command line including at least one tag identifying a dynamic property of a command line switch of the command line,

a generic property store in the memory that stores values for the dynamic property of the command line switch; and

a content handler executing on the processor that receives the tool file and generates from the custom build rule a custom build rule object, the custom build rule object evaluating the dynamic property of the command line switch and automatically replacing the tag in the generalized description of the command line with one or more values from the generic property store to transform the generalized description of the command line into an executable command line comprising the name of the tool to be executed and one or more command line switch properties associated with the tool.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the tool file is associated with a schema.

4.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the tool file comprises an XML file.

5.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 4, wherein the XML file is associated with an XML schema.

6.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 5, wherein the XML file is validated against the XML schema.

7.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 1, further comprising a dialog for adding or modifying the tool file.

8.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 1, further comprising a dialog for adding or modifying the custom build rule.

9.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 1, further comprising a dialog for adding or modifying the dynamic property of the custom build rule.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for integrating a build tool into a design environment on a computer system that comprises a processor and a memory, the method comprising:

storing a tool file in [[a]] the memory of the computer system, the tool file representing the tool to be integrated into the design environment and comprising a custom build rule for the tool that includes a generalized description of the syntax of a command line that is run when the tool is executed, the generalized description of the syntax of the command line including at least one tag identifying a dynamic property of a command line switch of the command line,

storing in a generic property store in the memory values for the dynamic property of the command line switch;

generating, by the processor, from the custom build rule in the tool file a custom build rule object;

evaluating, by the processor, via the custom build rule object the dynamic property of the command line switch and automatically replacing the tag in the generalized description of the command line with one or more values from a generic property store in the memory to transform the generalized description of the command line into an executable command line comprising the name of the tool to be executed and one or more command line switch properties associated with the tool; and

executing, by the processor, the executable command line to invoke the tool in the design environment.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the tool file is an XML file.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the XML file is associated with an XML schema and the XML file is validated against the XML schema.

17   (Canceled)

18.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the build rule object generated from the build rule creates a dynamic property descriptor.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more values with which the tag is replaced are associated with a particular use of the build rule in a project.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-executable instructions for integrating a build tool into a design environment on a computer system by:

storing a tool file in a memory of the computer system, the tool file representing the tool to be integrated into the design environment and comprising a custom build rule for the tool that includes a generalized description of the syntax of a command line that is run when the tool is executed, the generalized description of the syntax of the command line including at least one tag identifying a dynamic property of a command line switch of the command line,

storing in a generic property store in the memory values for the dynamic property of the command line switch;

generating from the custom build rule in the tool file a custom build rule object;

evaluating via the custom build rule object the dynamic property of the command line switch and automatically replacing the tag in the generalized description of the command line with one or more values from a generic property store in the memory to transform the generalized description of the command line into an executable command line comprising the name of the tool to be executed and one or more command line switch properties associated with the tool; and

executing the executable command line to invoke the tool in the design environment.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Canceled)